
NORTHWEST ALLEGED DISPOSAL AREA SAMPLING REPORT

**Hamilton Army Airfield
Novato, Marin County, California**



FINAL

Prepared for:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the November 2003 soil sampling project conducted at the Northwest Alleged Disposal Area (NWADA) at Hamilton Army Airfield (HAAF). The primary purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the validity of the allegations and concerns of Mr. Robert T. Foley, a former team chief of a U.S. Army Command Logistics Evaluation Team. Mr. Foley claimed that during his inspection period of HAAF (1987 to 1989), that he was told the open land located immediately northwest of the end of the former runway was the location of an improper disposal area of hazardous materials. The types of materials identified by Mr. Foley included paints, cleaning solvents, bleach, petroleum products, radioactive calibration samples, and medical supplies.

In a subsequent on-site interview, Mr. Foley stated that the area in question had no disturbed soil when it was shown to him. Mr. Foley assumed from his recollection of the site that the hazardous materials had been poured on the ground and the empty containers were then disposed of in dumpsters or elsewhere.

During November 18-19, 2003, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conducted a soil sampling event in accordance with the approved Northwest Alleged Disposal Area (NWADA) Work Plan (November 2003). USACE performed the sampling event in conjunction with the Friends of Novato Creek (FNC), representatives for Mr. Foley, who were present and determined the placement of sampling locations and sampling depths. A total of twenty-three soil samples from twelve locations were collected and sent for laboratory analysis.

During the collection of all twenty-three samples, field conditions were noted and recorded, including boring log preparation by a geologist and visual observations of any irregularities. Throughout the sampling event, there was no debris encountered in any of the bore holes, nor was there any evidence of any of the types of materials listed by Mr. Foley anywhere on the surface. Further, the lithology of each borehole indicated nothing but native material (i.e., no evidence of any fill or any other material that would indicate a disposal area). The laboratory analysis for each soil sample included a suite of analyses covering total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds

(SVOCs), gross alpha and gross beta particles, pesticides, Title 22 metals, and mercury. A summary of the data is as follows:

- **TPH:** TPH Gasoline and TPH Diesel were not detected above the reporting limit in any sample.
- **VOC:** A few samples contained some measurable amounts of volatile organic compounds concentrations. The reported concentrations are considered low and do not indicate the presence of the materials identified by Mr. Foley. (See Appendix A – Chemical Data Quality Assessment Report (CDQAR).
- **SVOC:** Only one sample had small measurable amounts of SVOCs detected other than trace amounts of suspected laboratory contaminants. The reported concentration is considered low and does not indicate the presence of the materials alleged to have been disposed of at this site. (See Appendix A – Chemical Data Quality Assessment Report (CDQAR).
- **Gross Alpha and Beta Particles:** All samples contained some measurable amounts of gross alpha and gross beta particle concentrations. The reported concentrations are considered low and could be considered as background concentrations.
- **Pesticides:** DDD, DDE, and DDT were detected above the reporting limit in samples from the six-foot and fourteen-foot depths of direct push location HAAF-ADA-201, (see attached figure). However, the concentrations are comparable and consistent with the DDE/DDT concentrations found throughout the Hamilton Airfield Area.
- **Title 22 Metals:** Metal concentrations were present in all samples as expected (i.e., since metals are naturally occurring). The detected concentrations are within concentration parameters of other studies conducted at Hamilton Airfield (i.e., baseline/ambient levels) and do not appear to indicate the presence of any of the materials alleged to have been disposed of at this site.
- **Mercury:** Although mercury was present in minor concentrations in some samples, they are within concentration parameters of other studies conducted at Hamilton Airfield (i.e., baseline/ambient levels) and do not appear to indicate the presence of any of the materials alleged to have been disposed of at this site.

A complete tabulation of the entire NWADA sampling data is presented in Appendix B.

Conclusion: None of the field observations, soil lithology, or laboratory data would indicate that any disposal of hazardous materials or debris took place in the NWADA.